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Testimony in Support of
HB 5174: An Act Establishing a Children's State Flower
Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 25, 2015

Good Afternoon Chairmen Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, and Ranking Members Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith, also distinguished member of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am here before you in support of HB 5174, An Act Establishing a Children's State Flower.

In 2007, Steven Hayes and Joshua Komisarjevsky committed crimes that cannot be described using words other than heinous and monstrous. The murders took place a few doors from my home. Because I had Legislator plates the police allowed me passed the barriers. While I was there I toured part of the site. I witnessed the event first hand, including their attempted flea from the scene. I actually saw Steven Hayes and Joshua Komisarjevsky crash into the police cars and then captured. Their actions shook the community and the nation, and took away two outstanding women, and one child who could have had a bright future. I served in the military and had many events happen that I have struggled to forget; however, I will never forget this heinous crime. It has been almost eight years since this horrific event and we, here at the legislature, have an opportunity to honor the memory of 11 year old Michaela Petit.

This bill seeks to create a state children's flower, the Four O'Clock flower, in memory of and name it after Michaela Petit. I hope the committee will consider this bill and I look forward to working with the committee to create a very worth-while piece of legislation.